included in the economic package for the North Eastern States are under various stages of implementation. Preliminary survey/investigation etc. are being done in respect of the remaining schemes. The implementation of these schemes are being regularly monitored by the Government.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Assessment of Law and Order in States by Central Teams

2358. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether sending of central teams to assess the law and aorder situation in the States in within the ambit of article 355 of the Constitution; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Article 355 of the Constitution of India casts a duty on the Union to protect every State not only against external aggression but also internal disturbance and to ensure that the Government of every State is carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution. In the discharge of this duty, the Central Government is expected to keep itself posted with respect to goings-on in all States. Visits of Central officials to the States are part of this process. The Central and state Governments have all along been interacting on issues relating to law and order.

Reang Families in Tripura Refugee Camps

2359. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of families belonging to Reang community have taken shelter in the refugee camps in Tripura after leaving their villages in Mizoram;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government will meet the expenditure on account of providing necessary amenities to these refugees; and

(d) what steps have been taken to ensure early return of these families to their villages in Mizoram?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The exodus of Reang from Mizoram started in October/November 1997 in the wake of ethnic tension between Mizos and Reangs in Tuipuibari area of Aizawl West District. The exodus towards Tripura and Assam continued till February/March 1998 on the major chunk of Reang refugees taking shelter in Gochirampara refugee camp (Tripura). The number of such refugees has crossed 30,000.

(c) The Central Government has providing financial assistance to Governments of Tripura and Assam towards maintenance of these refugees.

(d) The Central Government is keen on ensuring early return of refugees to their villages in Mizoram. This has been impressed upon all the concerned agencies. Government of Mizoram has assured the refugees of proper security, speedly development of their area in Mizoram and financial assistance for their rehabilitation. An inquiry into the allegations of excesses committed upon them has also been offered.

Reimbursement of Security-Related Expenditure to States

2360. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reimbursed security-related expenditure to the States of Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir and Assam;

(b) whether it is a fact that request of some other States, including Tripura, for reimbursement of security-related expenditure are pending with Government;